

An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline, likely the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland. The image shows steep, rocky cliffs dropping down to a dark, choppy sea. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is dramatic and scenic.

MHS CHOIRS TRIP TO IRELAND

DUBLIN, GALWAY, KILKENNY, CONNEMARRA

APRIL 9 - 16, 2025 (8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS)

PERFORMANCE & CULTURAL TOUR

STAFF

Mr. Jeff Woodworth
Choir Teacher

Ms. Neelam Makvana
Choir Teacher

Mr. Adam Warshafsky
Supervisor of Visual and
Performing Arts

*There will be additional MTSD Faculty
chaperones attending the trip!

MERITS OF TRAVEL

- Provide our students with **diverse and enriching cultural experiences** that they cannot get locally/domestically.
- Put students in touch with **history and culture** relevant to their **academic and musical study**.
- Experience **historic traditions** in an **immersive** way.
- Perform in **iconic and historic sites** that would be otherwise inaccessible.
- Allow for **social growth and interaction**.
- Provide a **culminating experience** for the **abundance of hard work** from throughout the year.
- Create **lifelong memories**.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9TH

- Luggage Checks / Inspection
- Buses depart for regional International Airports, typically:
Newark, Philadelphia, JFK, or Lagaardia
- Check-in for flight to Dublin or Shannon airport
- Flight departs in the evening, flying overnight
- Dinner provided on the flight



THURSDAY APRIL 10TH

- Flight arrives into Dublin or Shannon International Airport in the morning
- Meet the motorcoach driver and tour manager
- Depart for Kilkenny, stopping en-route for a Sheepdog Herding Demonstration
- Check-in at the hotel
- Dinner provided



FRIDAY APRIL 11TH

- Buffet Breakfast
- Half-day excursion to Rock of Cashel
- Free time for lunch in Cashel
- Explore the downtown area of Kilkenny
- Concert at St. Mary's Cathedral
- Post-Concert Reception and Dinner



SATURDAY APRIL 12TH

- Buffet Breakfast
- Transfer to Dublin (Orientation Tour included)
- Concert in the 11th century Christ Church Cathedral
- Free time on Grafton Street for lunch and shopping
- Visit Trinity College and the Book of Kells Exhibition
- Visit the Trinity College Library
- Dinner at a Traditional Dublin Pub
- Return to hotel in Kilkenny





SUNDAY APRIL 13TH

- Buffet Breakfast
- Check out of the hotel
- Wander, Hike, and Explore the Cliffs of Moher, the most photographed site in Ireland!
- Medieval Dinner at Bunratty Castle
- After dinner, depart for Galway
- Check-in to hotel



MONDAY APRIL 14TH

- Buffet Breakfast
- Visit Standun's, a remote family run store that offers top quality Irish clothing, jewelry, and gifts for reasonable prices
- Continue our drive through the Connemara Region, a very remote, but scenic area
- Visit Kylemore Abbey
- Explore the grounds including an English Walled Garden and an informal concert
- Return to Galway
- Dinner provided



TUESDAY APRIL 15TH

- Buffet Breakfast
- Acoustical rehearsal prior to concert at St. Nicholas Collegiate Church
- Free time to shop and have an independent lunch in downtown Galway
- Farewell Banquet for Dinner
- Irish Dance Lesson and Demonstration



WEDNESDAY APRIL 16TH

- Buffet Breakfast
- Check out of hotel and depart for Dublin or Shannon International Airport
- Flight departs in the late morning or early afternoon
- Arrive at airport mid-afternoon and board buses
- Arrive at Montgomery High School



Williamsburg/ Washington D.C.



Montreal/Quebec City



MORE INFORMATION

Included in Tour

- 6 nights accommodations in 3 & 4-star hotels (double and twin rooms)
- Buffet breakfasts daily
- 6 group dinner meals
- Deluxe private motorcoach for land portion of the tour
- Transportation to and from airports
- Group Travel Video App and Post-Tour Video
- Gratuities for bus driver, tour managers, local guides, group meal waitstaff
- Organization of 3 to 4 choral performances in incredible venues
- Paid entrance to the Sheepdog Herding Demonstration, Rock of Cashel, Book of Kells Exhibition, The Cliffs of Moher, Kylemore Abbey, Irish Dance Lesson
- Orientation Tours of Galway and Dublin
- TRC tour manager per motorcoach for land portion of the tour

MORE INFORMATION

Safety & Vigilance

- 1 district staff chaperone per 15 students on the trip
- District nurse traveling with us at all times
- District administration chaperone(s)
- Overnight private hotel security
- Deluxe private motorcoach for land portion of the tour
- Students will always remain in groups of at least 3 or more
- All travelers will have international cellular plans and students will have phone numbers of chaperones
- Luggage checks prior to departure and nightly room checks
- MTSD staff will visit all sites and hotels in advance for inspection

TRIP COST AND PAYMENT PLANS

The trip will cost \$3,499 or less (based on a 65 traveler minimum).
Payments will be collected on the following schedule:

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|------------|--|
| ● 03/01/24 | \$150.00 | ● 10/15/24 | \$300.00 |
| ● 04/01/24 | \$300.00 | ● 11/15/24 | \$300.00 |
| ● 05/01/24 | \$300.00 | ● 12/15/24 | \$300.00 |
| ● 06/01/24 | \$300.00 | ● 01/15/25 | \$300.00 |
| ● 07/01/24 | \$300.00 | ● 02/13/25 | \$349.00* |
| ● 08/01/24 | \$300.00 | | (or less based on airfare and fundraising) |
| ● 09/15/24 | \$300.00 | | |

*Note: This does not include your selected travel insurance option which will also be collected on or before 2/13/25

CANCELLATION POLICY

Our tour company has provided the following refund schedule:

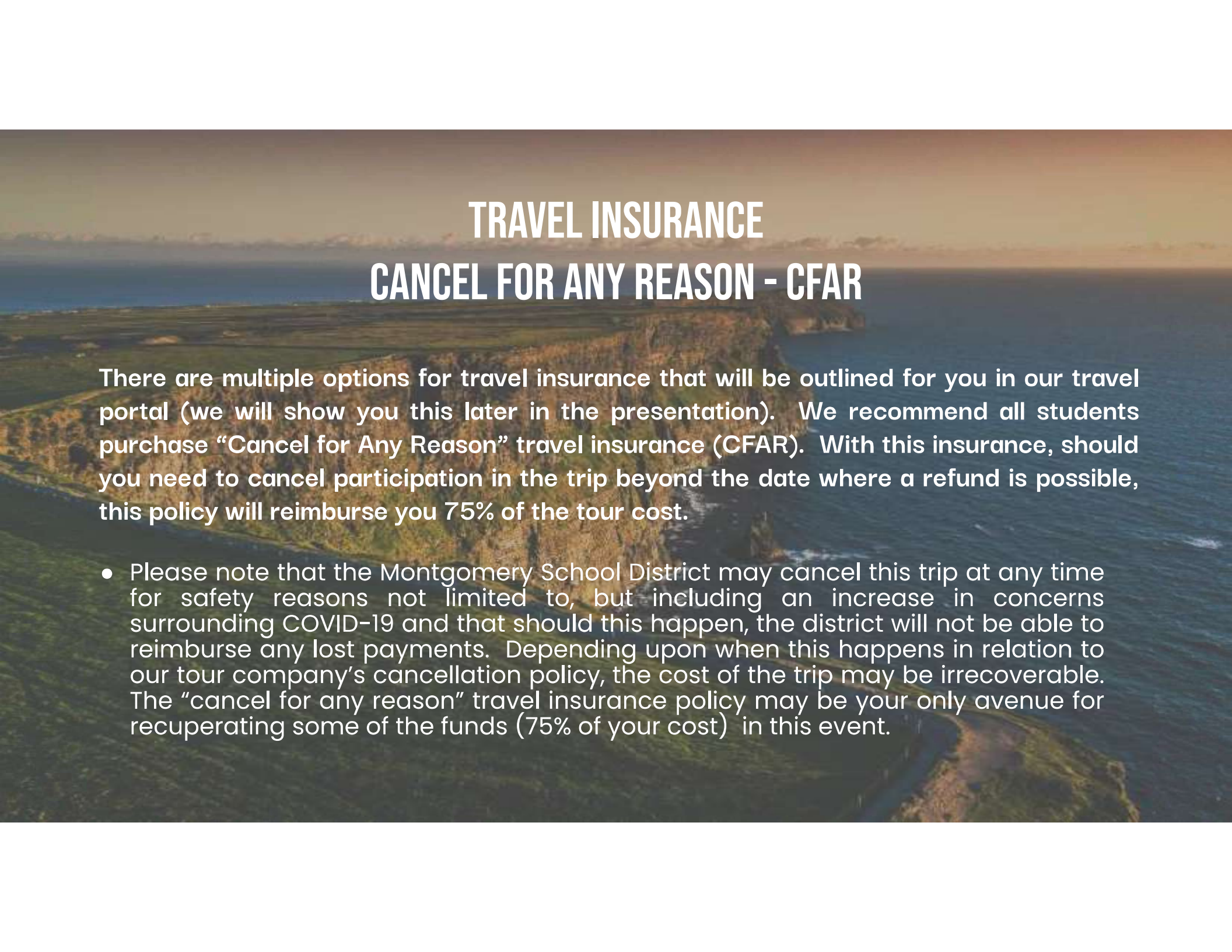
- Cancellations before 9/15/24 - full refund
- Cancellations before 10/15/24 - \$300 cancellation fee
- Cancellations before 12/15/24 - \$600 cancellation fee
- Cancellations before 2/13/25 - \$900 cancellation fee
- Cancellations after 2/13/25 - minimum of \$1,200 but may be charged up to 100% of the total per person tour price, as determined by our tour company (TRC) in its sole discretion

Please note: These cancellation fees do not include any airline-imposed cancellation fees which may apply and differ depending upon the airline we contract with and the date of cancellation.

CANCELLATION POLICY

The tour company (TRC) considers the date of your cancellation to be the date they are notified of the cancellation in writing. If you need to cancel the trip, please notify us in writing by emailing all of the following:

- Mr. Woodworth: jwoodworth@mtsd.us
- Ms. Makvana: nmakvana@mtsd.us
- Registration@TourResource.com



TRAVEL INSURANCE

CANCEL FOR ANY REASON - CFAR

There are multiple options for travel insurance that will be outlined for you in our travel portal (we will show you this later in the presentation). We recommend all students purchase “Cancel for Any Reason” travel insurance (CFAR). With this insurance, should you need to cancel participation in the trip beyond the date where a refund is possible, this policy will reimburse you 75% of the tour cost.

- Please note that the Montgomery School District may cancel this trip at any time for safety reasons not limited to, but including an increase in concerns surrounding COVID-19 and that should this happen, the district will not be able to reimburse any lost payments. Depending upon when this happens in relation to our tour company's cancellation policy, the cost of the trip may be irrecoverable. The “cancel for any reason” travel insurance policy may be your only avenue for recuperating some of the funds (75% of your cost) in this event.

TOUR RESOURCE CONSULTANTS

Mr. George Nimmo, Tour Resource Consultants (TRC)

TRC is a company our district has been reliably using for over 15 years to plan incredible concert tours. Over the years, TRC has created amazing opportunities for our music students in the following locations:

Spain (multiple tours)
France
Germany
Italy
Austria
Switzerland
Canada (multiple tours)
Hawaii - coming up this Spring!

WE TRAVEL PORTAL

Our [WeTravel Portal](#) is posted on the MHS Vocal Ensembles Page and will also be emailed to you. This is where all payments will be made.

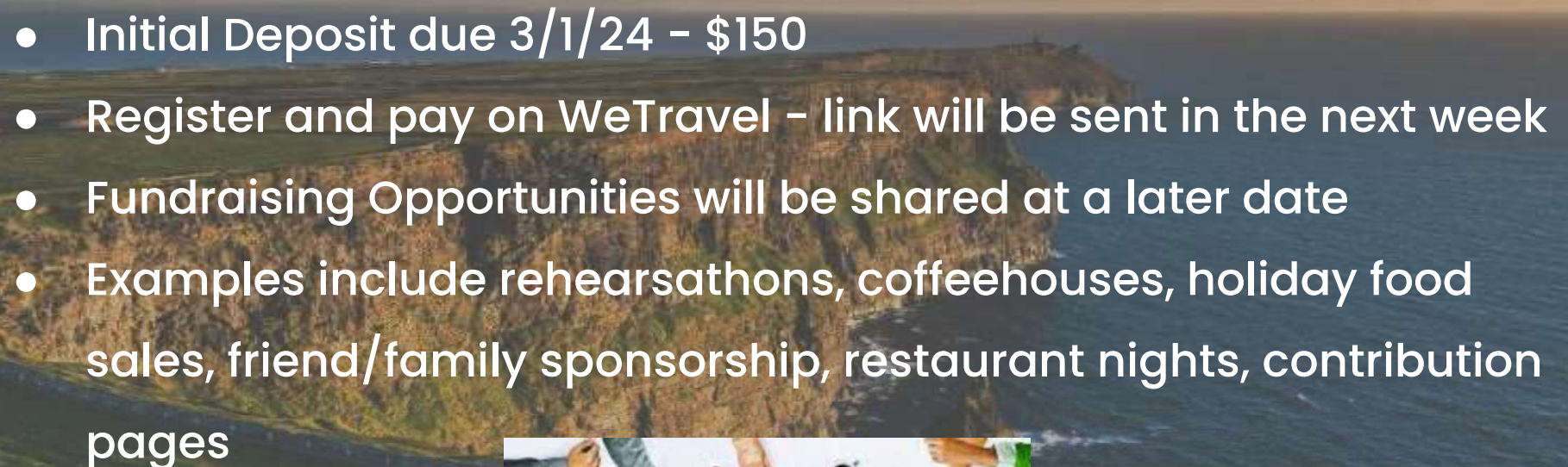
PASSPORTS AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

All students must have a valid passport and for students who are not US Citizens, appropriate travel documentation. Please note the following:

- Passports must be valid at least 6 months after our date of return
- We will collect images of all passports to keep with us while traveling
- Passports will be collected from students once we are through immigration and kept by chaperones during the trip
- For non-US Citizens, it is your responsibility to verify with the appropriate consulate/embassy what travel documents are needed for travel between the US and Ireland
- If appropriate passports/documents are not obtained in time for the trip, the student will not be able to participate and refunds may not be possible

For questions, please contact our tour manager via the WeTravel Portal

INITIAL DEPOSIT

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- Initial Deposit due 3/1/24 - \$150
 - Register and pay on WeTravel - link will be sent in the next week
 - Fundraising Opportunities will be shared at a later date
 - Examples include rehearsathons, coffeehouses, holiday food sales, friend/family sponsorship, restaurant nights, contribution pages



THE MHS CHOIR FAMILY

Through music, we build:

- Community
- Artistry
- Common Understanding
- Responsibility
- Leadership
- Creativity

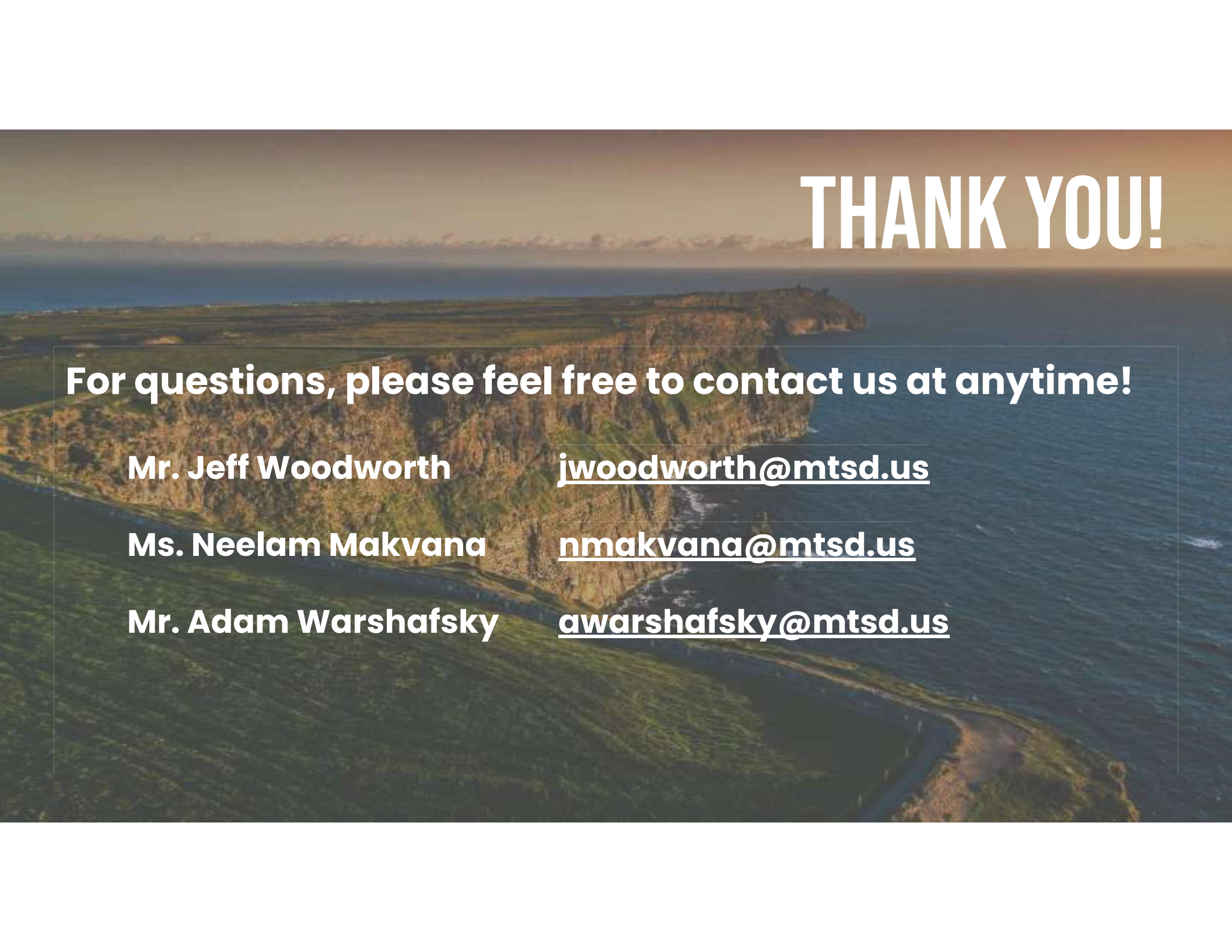
We thank you for your support of our program!

MTSD VOCAL ENSEMBLES PAGE - TRIP MATERIALS



WWW.MTSD.K12.NJ.US/PAGE/15529

Trip updates and forthcoming materials will be posted here in addition to the upcoming Trip Google Classroom.



THANK YOU!

For questions, please feel free to contact us at anytime!

Mr. Jeff Woodworth

jwoodworth@mtsd.us

Ms. Neelam Makvana

nmakvana@mtsd.us

Mr. Adam Warshafsky

awarshafsky@mtsd.us